



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/)

For Immediate Release  
June 11, 2004

Contact: Karen Szczepanski  
517-373-2420

## Hand Guns to be Permitted on State Land

**LANSING**-Today, legislation was sent to the Governor permitting Michigan residents to carry their concealed weapons while hunting or camping on state land. Currently, individuals who are hunting animals using a shot gun or other registered weapon during posted hunting seasons are not allowed to carry their concealed pistol.

The legislation, Senate Bill 221, introduced by Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, will amend current Department of Natural Resources regulations to permit the hand guns on state land. Garcia petitioned for the change after learning that there was an oversight in the original Concealed Carry Permit law.

“When the CCW was initially passed, there was an oversight made for hunters who possessed a concealed weapon permit but, according to DNR regulations, they were not allowed to have their gun when hunting on state land,” said Garcia. “Although no hunter will ever be able to use their hand gun to hunt an animal unless specifically licensed to do so, it is still their right to be able to carry their firearm while hunting.”

Senate Bill 221 is tie-barred to a bill offered by Representative James Koetje, R-Walker. Koetje’s bill, HB 4867, prohibits the DNR from promulgating a rule that would prevent a CCW holder from carrying a concealed pistol on DNR controlled land. This bill was needed because there was concern that in the future, the Department may see it necessary to remove CCW rights from hunters and campers.

Senate Bill 221 now awaits the governor’s signature.

###